BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-29 July 18th, 2008

- **Investment in non-residential buildings slips in second quarter**
- **Manufacturing shipments climb in May; wholesale sales fall**
- **Visitor entries up for first time since January**

The Economy

- **Investment in non-residential building construction in British Columbia slipped 5.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in the second quarter, marking the third consecutive quarterly decrease.** Spending on industrial buildings plunged (-12.4%), but investment was also lower in the institutional (-5.7%) and commercial (-4.0%) sectors. Non-residential building construction activity in Abbotsford (+5.8%) was up, but Victoria (-8.6%), Vancouver (-7.7%) and Kelowna (-2.0%) saw declines.

  Among the provinces, Newfoundland (+9.9%) and Saskatchewan (+9.5%) saw the biggest increases in non-residential building activity, while PEI (+8.6%), Alberta (+3.2%) and Quebec (+2.6%) also made solid gains. Overall growth was moderated by declines in BC, Manitoba (-4.0%) and parts of Atlantic Canada, such that Canadian spending inched up just 0.9% to reach $10.5 billion. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in BC climbed (+2.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) to $3.5 billion in May adding to the 0.8% increase recorded in April.** Shipments of durable goods were on the rise (+1.2%) as sales by producers of wood (+4.0%), non-metallic minerals (+4.2%) and primary metal products (+1.9%) served to offset declines in the machinery (-8.3%) industry.

  Non-durable shipments also fared well on the strength of sales by manufacturers of paper (+5.6%) and food (+1.2%) products. Overall, shipments of non-durable goods climbed 3.5%.

  Factory sales for Canadian manufacturers (+2.7%) were also strong in May. Sales increased for 16 of 21 industries, with petroleum and coal products (+9.2%) accounting for almost half of the overall growth in manufacturing sales. Sales were down sharply in PEI (-11.7%), but every other province posted solid increases ranging from 1.0% in Quebec to 8.6% in Saskatchewan. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Wholesale sales in the province continued to see-saw in May, falling 1.3% (*seasonally adjusted*), following an upturn (+3.7%) in the previous month.** Most other provinces posted gains, with the biggest increases seen in Saskatchewan (+5.8%) and Alberta (+4.7%).Total Canadian sales (+1.6%) escalated for the third straight month, with much of the increase attributable to the personal & household goods (+1.4%) and "other products" (+9.5%) sectors. "Other products" includes agricultural fertilizers, where sales were a whopping 57.7% higher in May than in the same month last year.
  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **New motor vehicle sales in BC revved up (+1.8%) in May, recovering slightly from a substantial slowdown in April (-6.8%).** Vehicle sales in the province have been considerably volatile in recent months, see-sawing since February.

  After stalling for three consecutive months, Canada-wide, sales of new motor vehicles advanced slightly (+1.1%) in May, on the strength of increased activity recorded in six provinces. Sales were most notably higher in Nova Scotia (+12.4%), while other provinces also recorded solid, but more moderate gains. Canadian consumers purchased more passenger vehicles (+4.3%) from both overseas (+4.4%) and North

Report

BC's Inter-Provincial Migrants: A Changing Age Distribution

Did you know...
4 in 10 Canadian parents prefer their children to play video games rather than watching television. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

America (+4.2%), but put the brakes on purchases of trucks, vans and busses (-2.3%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **Visitor entries to the province increased 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May, marking the first time since January that entries have been up.** Although visits from the US continued to decline (-0.4%), entries from overseas markets were up (+3.9%), largely due to a significant increase in visits from Asia (+12.2%). There were more entries from all major Asian markets, with particularly large increases in visits from Taiwan (+15.6%) and South Korea (+8.5%). European entries were flat (-0.1%) in May.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Crime

- **British Columbia's crime rate declined by over eight percent in 2007, dropping to 10,433 non-traffic crimes reported for every 100,000 people living in the province.** The rate of violent crime was 3.6% lower than 2006 levels, and property crime (-8.8%) and other criminal code offences (-9.2%) decreased even more substantially.

  Among violent crimes, the rate of homicide (2 per 100,000 people) and sexual assault (69 per 100,000 people) was notably lower than in 2006, but incidents of attempted murder, assault and robbery were up. There were 88 homicides reported in BC last year, fewer than in 2006, lowering the rate by 19.6%. BC had the lowest homicide rate in western Canada last year; however, provincial rates remained higher in the West than in other parts of the country. Among the provinces, Manitoba had the most homicides per 100,000 population (5.2), followed by Saskatchewan (3.0). With no murders recorded last year, PEI boasted the lowest homicide rate (0.0) and the national average was 1.8 per 100,000 population.

  Source: SC, Cat. #85-002-XIE

- **BC (10,433 per 100,000 population) had the third highest overall crime rate of Canadian provinces, behind Saskatchewan (13,225) and Manitoba (10,829).** Saskatchewan has had the highest crime rate among the provinces for the past 30 years, although the province did see a 3.5% decline last year. The lowest crime rates were in Ontario (5,228) and Quebec (5,317), where the rates were about half as high as in BC. *Source: SC, Cat. #85-002-XIE*

- **The youth crime rate in BC plunged (-9.1%) in 2007.** In contrast to the adult world, BC's youth (aged 12 to 17) crime rate (5,853) was substantially lower than the national average (6,811), and was the second lowest in Canada—only Quebec (3,987), had a lower youth crime rate. Conversely, young people were most likely to offend in Saskatchewan (20,371 accused youth per 100,000) Manitoba (10,843) and Nova Scotia (10,719). *Source: SC, Cat. #85-002-XIE*

Motor Vehicle Deaths

- **Between 2000 and 2004, there were 14,082 deaths involving motor vehicle accidents in Canada.** This made for an average annual death rate of 9.0 per 100,000 population. Rates varied among the provinces, with the highest recorded in Saskatchewan (14.4 per 100,000 population). At 10.2, BC's rate also exceeded the national figure as did those for most other regions. Only Ontario (7.0), Newfoundland (7.8) and Nova Scotia (8.9) had rates below the national level. *Source: SC, Cat. #82-003-XIE*

The Nation

- **Canadians invested $6.1 billion worth of foreign securities in May, mostly due to continued acquisition of foreign stocks ($5.1 billion).** Similarly, non-residents purchased $10.7 billion in Canadian securities. Foreign investors added $7.7 billion worth of Canadian bonds to their portfolios in May, the largest monthly acquisition in over a year. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's composite leading index was unchanged in June (+0.0%), following gains in the previous two months.** Weakness in the number of housing starts and the number of new orders received by manufacturers weighed heavily on the index. However, declines were offset due to strong consumer spending and continued strength in the financial sector. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Contact: Jakob Dwhytie
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Originally published in
Migration Highlights Issue 08-1

BC's Inter-Provincial Migrants: A Changing Age Distribution

British Columbia's population, along with the rest of Canada, is growing older. In 1977 the median age of British Columbians was 40. At the same time, the median age of inter-provincial migrants to and from British Columbia has increased. This article examines what impact the aging of the population has had on inter-provincial migration, and what implications recent trends may hold for the future.

Age Structure of the Population

Over the past three decades, B.C. has experienced significant changes in the relative size of certain age groups. Figure 1 displays the population level of four age groups. Clearly, since the mid-1990's population growth in the province has been due to an increasing number of individuals in the 45-64 and 65+ age groups. Figure 2 shows that B.C.'s experience has been shared throughout Canada.

Most of the recent lack of growth among the lower two age groups is a result of declines in birthrates, while increased life expectancies and the aging of the "baby-boom" cohort (individuals born between 1946 and 1964) account for much of the growth in the older age groups.

This aging has many important implications, ranging from the relative size of the labour force to delivery of health services. This article focuses only on the impact of an older population on inter-provincial migration.

Table 1: Median Age

		1977	2007
Population	B.C.	29.3	40.0
	Canada	28.1	39.0
Inter-Provincial In-Migrants	B.C.	24.4	30.2
	Canada	23.6	28.2
Inter-Provincial Out-Migrants	B.C.	23.7	28.6
	Canada	23.6	28.2

Figure 1: B.C. Population by Age Group

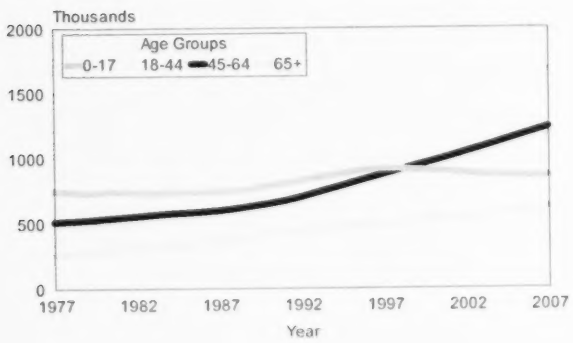
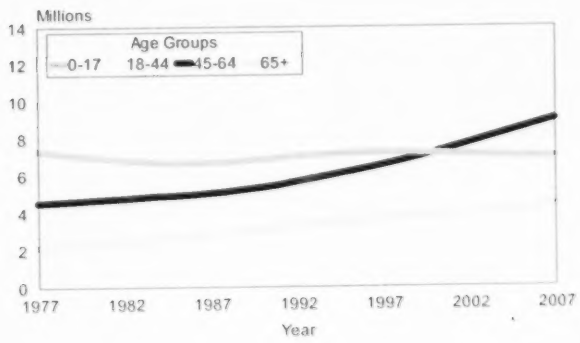


Figure 2: Canada Population by Age Group



Age Structure of Inter-Provincial Migrants

Similar to the aging of the population at large, the average age of migrants is increasing, as seen in Table 1. Figures 4 and 5 show how the levels of migration have varied over the past three decades. While the level of 18–44 year olds migrating has fluctuated significantly with cycles of the economy, there does appear to be a trend of fewer migrants aged 0–17, and more 45–64 and 65+.

The migration of 0–17 year olds is generally children moving with their parents, who are usually in the 18–44 age group. A reduction in the number of children relative to parents is to be expected, as birthrates have been declining steadily in the past three decades. In other words, adults have fewer children to bring with them when migrating to another province. Increases in the 45–64 and 65+ age groups are also not surprising. Longer life expectancies as well as the aging baby-boom cohort have increased the number of individuals in these age groups, so there is a larger pool from which to draw migrants.

Figures 6 and 7 show that relative to the size of the age groups, the rate of migration has declined since 1977. However, the decline among 45–64 and 65+ year olds is much smaller than among the younger two age groups. A non-increasing proportion of older individuals migrating means that the number of migrants 45–64 and 65+ is increasing simply because there are more of these individuals in the population. Thus, in the near future it is unlikely that the numbers of older migrants will increase at a rate faster than the growth of these age groups.

The large decline in the rate of migration among 0–17 and 18–44 year olds, and the growth of the size of the older two age groups, have together begun to change the age distribution of migrants. Figures 8 and 9 show how the percentage of migrants aged 45–64 and 65+ has increased, while the percentage aged 0–17 has fallen, all while the percentage aged 18–44 has remained relatively steady. So long as the baby-boom cohort continues to age, and birthrates show no signs of increasing, this trend can be expected to carry on.

Nonetheless, because these changes are occurring in both in- and out-migration, the effect on net-migration to B.C. is relatively smaller. Figure 3 shows that in recent years the upper age groups have constituted a larger proportion of the net inflow of migrants to the province, but whether this will continue is unclear.

Figure 3: Inter-Provincial Net Migration

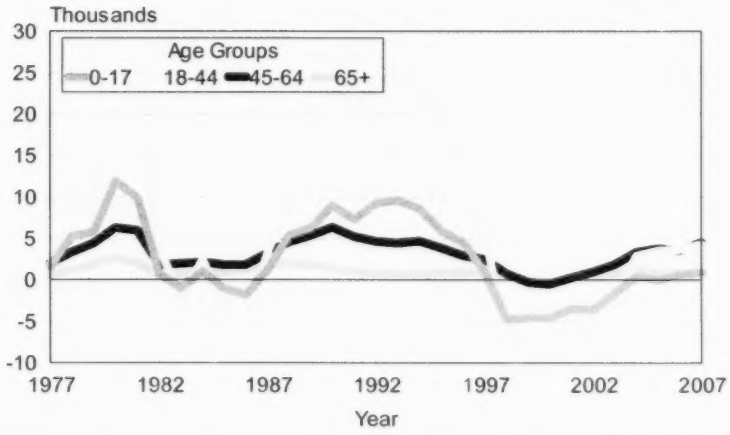


Figure 4: Inter-Provincial In-Migration by Age Group

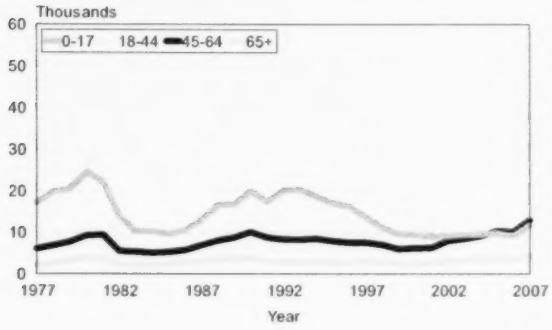


Figure 5:Inter-Provincial Out-Migration by Age Group

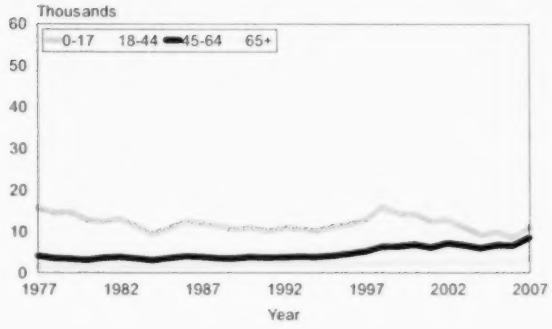


Figure 6: Inter-Provincial In-Migration as Percentage of Age Group in B.C. Population

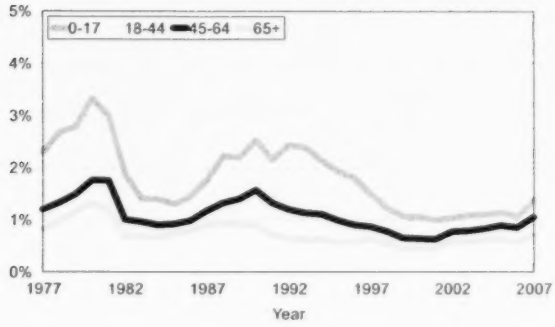


Figure 7: Inter-Provincial Out-Migration as Percentage of Age Group in B.C. Population

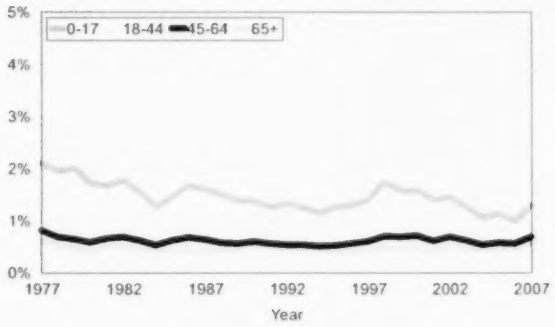


Figure 8: Inter-Provincial In-Migration as Percentage of In-Migrants

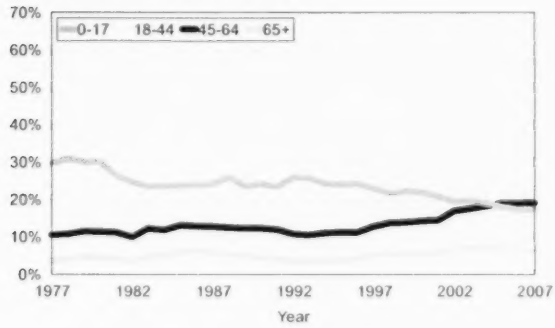
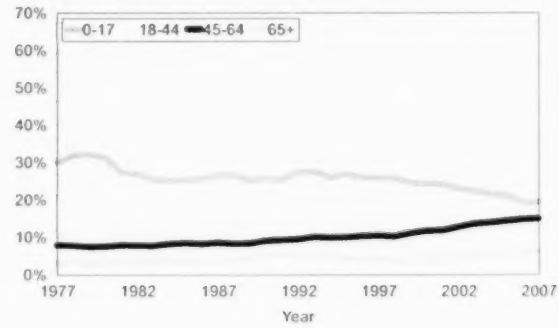


Figure 9: Inter-Provincial Out-Migration as Percentage of Out-Migrants



Motivations to Migrate

Despite the increasing proportion of older individuals, the majority of inter-provincial migrants are still members of the younger age groups. Younger people tend to be the most mobile, and there are a number of reasons for this. In the late teens and early twenties, people often move away from home for the first time to receive education or start a career. The late twenties and thirties are a time when individuals may move again to a new job or to start families, taking their children with them. In general, moving is a costly venture, but it may be less costly for the young because they are less likely to be deeply invested in a particular place and have a longer future to reap the potential economic benefits of a move.

Older individuals, on the other hand, generally have slightly different reasons to move. The search for better employment can still be a large motivator, but individuals may also choose to relocate upon retirement, taking climate and life-style of their destination into larger consideration than the young. Additionally, the availability of services, especially health care services among the elderly, can be an important motivator to move, or a significant factor in choosing where to move.

These distinctions are important because forecasting inter-provincial migration requires consideration of an individual's motivations for migration. Since the young and old may have significantly different motivations, a change in the composition of migrants to older individuals may affect the predictive power of current forecasting methods.

Implications of Older Inter-Provincial Migrants

The changing age distribution of inter-provincial migrants seems to generally mirror the changing structure of the provincial population as a whole. It does not appear that inter-provincial migration is a significant factor in increasing the age of B.C.'s population. Still, attention must be paid to the changing composition of inter-provincial migrants.

Older people have historically migrated less frequently than the young. If the composition of inter-provincial migrants shifts to include a greater proportion of older individuals, this may reduce the flows, but not necessarily the net population impact, of inter-provincial migration.

A greater proportion of older individuals may also change the dynamics of migrants. Migration is highly correlated with economic factors such as GDP and unemployment rates, but it is also driven by non-economic factors such as climate and life-style. To an older population, the economic factors may become a less important determinant of migration.

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the **Internet** at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,428.4	1.5
Canada	33,223.8	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 28)		
(BC - at market prices)	2007	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	190,214	5.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	163,200	3.1
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	37,258	1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	24,728	3.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May	3,483	2.2
Merchandise Exports - May	2,826	10.4
Retail Sales - Apr	4,775	-0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - May 2008)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.1	1.4
Vancouver	2.4	1.7
Victoria	1.9	0.9
Canada	2.2	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun '08	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,432	0.3
Employed - BC	2,322	0.2
Unemployed - BC	110	1.7
		May '08
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.5	4.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.2	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 16/08	Jul 18/07
Prime Business Rate	4.75	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.95	7.05
- 5 year	7.15	7.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 16/08	Jul 18/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0017	1.0437
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9978	0.9573
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '08	% change on one year ago
BC	782.92	5.8
Canada	781.94	4.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Immigration & Diversity Profiles

The Welcome BC site now features two series of graphic profiles based on the 2006 Census. Over 200 individual documents in each series reveal the characteristics of British Columbia, its regions, and communities.

Www.welcomebc.ca/en/growing_your_community/trends/2006/

NEW RSS enabled for our site

We now have two RSS feeds for our users. One provides updates for our analytical articles; the other is for everything we do, including the analytical articles, but also announcements, data releases, and publications.

Analytical articles:
www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/rss/analytical.ashx

Everything:
www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/rss/everythingnew.ashx

Improved Article Index on site

Access BC Stats' reports and publications through a searchable database. Searches can be performed by subject, author, publication or date. Link to this page by choosing **Reports & Publications** near the bottom of our left sidebar.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/guide.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports, May 2008

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, June 2008

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